What Is Claimed Is:

1   1.   A method to facilitate accessing communication queues using a

2   public network, comprising:

3   generating a message at a client;

4   formatting the message in a publicly available format;

5   communicating the message across the public network to a web server;

6   receiving the message at the web server;

7   transforming the message to a database specific format; and

8   passing the message to a queue within a database server across a

9   proprietary network.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the publicly available format

2   includes extensible markup language (XML).

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein communicating the message

2   across the public network includes communicating with one of, hypertext transfer

3   protocol (HTTP), simple mail transfer protocol (SMTP), and file transfer protocol

4   (FTP), whereby the message can be communicated across a firewall.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the message

2   from the queue to a recipient.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising publishing the message

2   from the queue to a list of recipients.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising requesting to receive a

2   stored message from the queue.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising registering to receive

2   notification of new messages from the queue.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the client is a second queue in a

2   second database.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the public network is the Internet.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, further comprising authenticating the client

2   to the web server.

1   11.   The method of claim 1, further comprising guaranteeing

2   transactional integrity of a transaction including multiple round trips, wherein

3   operations of the transaction are committed and aborted as a unit.

1   12.   The method of claim 1, further comprising guaranteeing exactly

2   once delivery of the message during propagation from a first queue to a second

3   queue, whereby exactly once delivery is ensured by using a sequence number and

4   not by a two phase commit.

1   13.   A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that

2   when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method to

3   facilitate accessing communication queues using a public network, the method

4   comprising:

19

5   generating a message at a client;

6   formatting the message in a publicly available format;

7   communicating the message across the public network to a web server;

8   receiving the message at the web server;

9   transforming the message to a database specific format; and

10   passing the message to a queue within a database server across a

11   proprietary network.

1   14.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the

2   publicly available format includes extensible markup language (XML).

1   15.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein

2   communicating the message across the public network includes communicating

3   with one of, hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP), simple mail transfer protocol

4   (SMTP), and file transfer protocol (FTP), whereby the message can be

5   communicated across a firewall.

1   16.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, the method

2   further comprising sending the message from the queue to a recipient.

1   17.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, the method

2   further comprising publishing the message from the queue to a list of recipients.

1   18.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, the method

2   further comprising requesting to receive a stored message from the queue.

20

1   19.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, the method

2 further comprising registering to receive notifications from the queue.

1   20.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein

2 messages are propagated from a first queue to a second queue.

1   21.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the

2 public network is the Internet.

1   22.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, the method

2 further comprising authenticating the client to the web server.

1   23.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, the method

2 further comprising proxying as a database user by the web server on behalf of an

3 Internet user.

1   24.   An apparatus to facilitate accessing communication queues using a

2 public network, comprising:

3   a generating mechanism that is configured to generate a message at a

4 client;

5   a formatting mechanism that is configured to format the message in a

6 publicly available format;

7   a communicating mechanism that is configured to communicate the

8 message across the public network to a web server;

9   a receiving mechanism that is configured to receive the message at the

10 web server;

11   a transforming mechanism that is configured to transform the message to a

12 database specific format; and

13   a passing mechanism that is configured to pass the message to a queue

14 within a database server across a proprietary network.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the publicly available format

2 includes extensible markup language (XML).

1 26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein communicating the message

2 across the public network includes communicating with one of, hypertext transfer

3 protocol (HTTP), simple mail transfer protocol (SMTP), and file transfer protocol

4 (FTP), whereby the message can be communicated across a firewall.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a sending

2 mechanism that is configured to send the message from the queue to a recipient.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a publishing

2 mechanism that is configured to publish the message from the queue to a list of

3 recipients.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a requesting

2 mechanism that is configured to request receiving a stored message from the

3 queue.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a registering

2 mechanism that is configured to register to receive notifications from the queue.

1   31.   The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the client is a second queue in

2   a second database.

1   32.   The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the public network is the

2   Internet.

1   33.   The apparatus of claim 24, wherein exactly once delivery of

2   messages to a second queue is guaranteed across the public network, whereby the

3   public network handles recovery from network and database failures.

1   34.   The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising an authenticating

2   mechanism that is configured to authenticate the client to the web server.